

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9449

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, JO, PLO

SUBJECT: INDICATIONS THAT ASAD-SARKIS DISCUSSIONS TOUCHED UPON
PROPOSAL FOR CLOSER SYRO-JORDANIAN-LEBANESE COOPERATION

1. EMBOFF MET WITH EDITOR OF TISHRIIN NEWSPAPER SEPT. 5
TO SEEK DETAILS OF ASAD-SARKIS DISCUSSIONS AUG. 31.
SOURCE STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT AMONG OTHER TOPICS DIS-
CUSSED WAS PROPOSAL TO CREATE LOOSE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION
AMONG SYRIA, JORDAN AND LEBANON THAT WOULD FACILITATE
MILITARY COORDINATION AMONG PARTNERS. PRIOR TO SARKIS VISIT,
PALESTINIAN SOURCE CLOSE TO PNC KHALID FAHUM TOLD US THAT
FAHUM AND SYRIANS HAD BEEN TALKING ABOUT CONFEDERAL ARRANGE-
MENT AS FRAMEWORK FOR SOLUTION TO LEBANESE CRISIS.

2. COMMENT: TALKS WITH SARKIS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE PRE-
SUMABLY EXPLORATORY. UNLESS HE WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO
IDEA, DAMASCUS LEADERSHIP PROBABLY INTENDS TO FOLLOW
UP BY RAISING SUBJECT WITH OTHER LEBANESE POLITICAL
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LEADERS SCHEDULED TO VISIT SYRIA IN NEAR FUTURE. TRIPARTITE

ASAD-HUSSEIN-SARKIS MEETING AFTER LATTER ASSUMES OFFICE
MAY ALSO BE IN PROSPECT. EVENTUAL PALESTINIAN INCLUSION
IN A LOOSE ASSOCIATION OF THIS SORT, UNLIKELY AS IT
SEEMS, SHOULD NOT BE TOTALLY DISMISSED. SUCH A SCHEME
WOULD CONFORM TO SYRIA'S SUSPENDED BUT NOT ABANDONED
POST-SINAI II POLICY OF CREATING A NORTHERN FRONT AGAINST
ISRAEL.
PELLETREAU

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